

learn sufficiently strong to overcome the lure of trivial distractions, or on the other hand if they are so devoted to a specific interest that they ignore other spheres of life. Freedoms carry their own limitations, and to accept the duty imposed by the freedom demands much of the individual.

In an endeavor to implement these principles, Black Mountain College was founded in 1933 by a group of teachers and students as a college of liberal arts which should be coeducational, where ultimate control should rest with the Faculty, where established methods of education could combine with newer, experimental methods, and where faculty and students should share responsibility in the process of learning and in the accompanying process of living decently, productively, wisely, in a relatively small community.

ORGANIZATION

The charter of the College places ownership of its properties and control of its affairs with the Faculty. The Faculty is directly responsible for educational policy and discipline. From its membership it elects a Board of Fellows empowered to make appointments and administer finances. The Faculty elects the Rector from the Board to preside over that body; and the Board elects a Secretary and a Treasurer. Thus there is no sharp cleavage between the administrative and the educational functions of the College.

In the belief that to become responsible requires undertaking responsibility, the Faculty provides that a large share in the running of the College shall fall to students. The chief student officer, the moderator, elected by students from among themselves, is a legal, voting member of the Board of Fellows. He and other student officers meet from time to time with the Board or the Faculty. Students serve on committees, including the Admissions Committee, largely govern their own affairs, and take charge of many aspects of college and community life. Occasionally questions affecting the social unit as a whole are discussed at general meetings where everyone—students, faculty, personnel, and other members of the community—has a voice.

The main function of the Black Mountain College community is to provide a fruitful environment for education in academic, creative, practical, and social pursuits. Since the ideal of democracy is not its form but the enjoyment of it, set organization of daily life is held to a minimum. Policies and procedures are generally arrived at by agreement rather than by rule. Life at Black Mountain may be said to fall into several overlapping and interrelated areas: the curriculum, including class and individual study; community concerns, including welfare regulations and work programs; recreation, including concerts, exhibitions, movies and other entertainment.